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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNOMIL mandate until 13 January 1995; calls on Liberian factions to stop fighting immediately and to agree on timetable for disarmament and demobilization.

+ Security Council deplores continued threat by extremist elements to national reconciliation in Burundi; welcomes swearing in of President and formation of new coalition Government.

+ Conditions have been established for free and fair elections in Mozambique on 27 and 28 October, Security Council says; parties should abide by results and strive for reconciliation and reconstruction.

+ General Assembly elects Botswana, Indonesia, Honduras, Germany and Italy to two-year terms on Security Council as of 1 January.

+ General Assembly encourages cooperation between United Nations and OAS, SELA; elects new members to Committee for Programme and Coordination.

+ Secretary-General embarks on two-week tour taking in United Kingdom, France, Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova.

+ Election to fill vacant seat in International Court of Justice to be held by Security Council and General Assembly on 26 January.

+ Secretary-General expresses concern at escalation of tension on border between Israel and Lebanon, citing Israeli shelling of Lebanese village; calls for restraint on all sides.

+ Israel says it will not allow Tel Aviv bus bombing to weaken its commitment to Middle East peace process; calls on parties to strongly condemn terrorist attack.

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For information media—not an official record

+ International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, in first annual report, says Prosecutor may start issuing indictments within months; many problems to be overcome before trials begin.

+ Russian Federation tells Committee on Disarmament and International Security it will de-emphasize role of nuclear weapons for security and move steadily to eliminate them.

+ Secretary-General extends term of representative in Cambodia for six months at request of Government.

+ Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information to open DPI Inter-Agency Information Fair on United Nations Day, 24 October.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 13 January 1995. It welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to dispatch a high-level mission to consult with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on how the international community could best continue to assist the peace process in Liberia. The Council recognized that circumstances there warranted his decision to reduce UNOMIL's strength, and said that any decision to return it to the authorized level would depend on a real improvement in the situation on the ground, particularly the security situation.

In unanimously adopting resolution 950 (1994), the Council called on all factions in Liberia to cease hostilities immediately, and to agree to a timetable for disengagement of forces, disarmament and demobilization. It further called on the Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG) and all Liberians to seek political accomodation and national reconciliation and to work with the Chairman of ECOWAS and the Secretary-General's Special Representative to achieve a durable settlement. The Council again called on all States to strictly abide by the complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Liberia.

The Council condemned the widespread killings of civilians and other violations of international humanitarian law by the factions in Liberia. It demanded that they strictly respect the status of personnel of the ECOWAS Observer Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) and UNOMIL, and of other international organizations and relief agencies working there. The Council asked the Secretary-General to report to it well in advance of 13 January, with recommendations as to the future role of UNOMIL in light of developments in the peace process and on the ground and the recommendations of the high-level mission.

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The Security Council today deplored the fact that extremist elements continued to threaten national reconciliation in Burundi, including through the operation of a clandestine radio station inciting ethnic hatred and

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violence. In a statement by its President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), the Council welcomed the election and swearing in of the country's President, the confirmation of the Prime Minister and the formation of the new coalition Government as important steps in the stabilization of the situation there. It called on all parties in Burundi to cooperate in the work of re-establishing democracy and stability.

The Council reaffirmed the importance of bringing to justice those responsible for the coup last October, and subsequent inter-ethnic massacres and other violations of international humanitarian law. It encouraged the Secretary-General to pursue his suggestion that United Nations assistance be provided to the Government in strengthening its judicial system.

The Council expressed deep concern at the plight of refugees and displaced persons in Burundi, and welcomed the Secretary-General's sending of a Special Envoy to study the crisis from a regional perspective. It also encouraged the Secretary-General to pursue consultations as to how the United Nations could assist the convening of an international conference to examine the problems of the sub-region. The Council also welcomed his intention to strengthen the office of his Special Representative.

The Council called on the international community to continue to give priority to the restoration of stability and the promotion of national reconciliation in Burundi. It also encouraged the Organization of African Unity (OAU), United Nations agencies and Member States to continue their involvement there, and to intensify political contacts and visits.

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The necessary conditions have now been established for the holding of free and fair elections in Mozambique on 27 and 28 October under effective national and international monitoring, according to the Security Council. In a Presidential statement this afternoon, it commended the Government, the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) and the Mozambican people for what had been achieved. By providing the people with an opportunity to exercise their right to vote, the elections held out the prospect of peace, stability and democracy.

The Council appealed to all concerned to ensure that the election campaign and voting were conducted in a calm and responsible manner; that the elections were held freely and fairly; that those in authority act with complete impartiality to avoid any allegation of fraud; and that the elections and their aftermath were characterized by the absence of violence or threats. It reiterated its intention to endorse the results of the elections should the United Nations declare them free and fair, and reminded the parties of their obligation to fully abide by the results.

The Council trusted that the parties would be guided after the elections by the spirit of reconciliation and the principles of democracy in working together to reconstruct Mozambique, thus enabling the international community to continue to support the country.

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The General Assembly yesterday elected Botswana, Indonesia, Honduras, Germany and Italy to two-year terms on the Security Council, filling non-permanent seats to be vacated on 31 December by Djibouti, Pakistan, Brazil, New Zealand and Spain. Representatives of the Gambia, on behalf of the African States, Samoa, on behalf of the Asian States, Paraguay, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, and Canada, on behalf of the Western European and Other States, took the floor to endorse the candidates from their respective regional groups.

The Assembly also accepted the formal credentials of representatives of 118 Member States by adopting, without a vote, the first report of its Credentials Committee. Speaking in explanation of position, the representatives of Libya and Iran stated that their approval of the report of the Committee did not imply endorsement of the credentials of Israel.

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The General Assembly today requested the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), or their representatives, to resume consultations with a view to signing an agreement on cooperation next year. In a resolution adopted without a vote, it expressed satisfaction at existing cooperation between the two organizations, particularly regarding the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH).

In another resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) to assess the implementation of the agreement between that organization and the United Nations on expanding cooperation in areas of common concern. The Assembly also elected seven new members to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), based on nominations of the Economic and Social Council. Elected to three-year terms, beginning on 1 January 1995, were: Benin and Ghana (African States); Russian Federation (Eastern European States); the Bahamas and Mexico (Latin American and Caribbean States); and France and the United States (Western European and Other States).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today embarked on a two-week tour which will take him to the United Kingdom, France, Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova.

The Secretary-General's first stop will be London, where he will confer with the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary. He will also meet Prince Charles, and address the Foreign and Commonwealth Writers Association. In Paris, he will meet with the President, the Prime Minister and other senior officials. In Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova, the Secretary-General will meet with Heads of State and senior government officials, and address the parliaments of most of those countries.

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During his visits, the Secretary-General will seek to strengthen relations between the United Nations and those Member States, and to promote the peaceful resolution of disputes. He will also meet with United Nations officials in Geneva, before returning to Headquarters on 8 November.

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The Security Council today decided to hold the election to fill the vacant seat in the International Court of Justice on 26 January 1995 at simultaneous meetings of the Council and the General Assembly. The Council took that decision by adopting resolution 951 (1994) without a vote, noting with regret the 28 September death of Judge Nikolai Konstantinovitch Tarassov of the Russian Federation.

Under the Statute of the Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council proceed independently of one another to elect the members of the Court. The candidate who obtains an absolute majority in the Assembly and in the Council is elected.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed deep concern at the escalation of tension along the Israeli-Lebanese border. He cited a report from the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Major-General Trond Furuhovde, that Israel had fired anti-personnel shells at the Lebanese village of Nabatiyeh al Fawqa, killing several civilians.

The Secretary-General noted that the Force Commander had strongly protested that incident to the Israeli Defence Force, while the Secretariat had conveyed a protest to the Permanent Mission of Israel. He condemned all violence against civilians, and called for restraint on all sides.

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Israel has stressed that it will not allow the terrorist bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv on Wednesday to weaken its commitment to the Middle East peace process. In a letter to the General Assembly and the Security Council dated 19 October, it said the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas had claimed responsibility for the attack, which killed 22 people and injured 48. Hamas had also threatened to carry out more terrorist acts of that kind. In the past two weeks, the letter continued, it had been responsible for an attack in Jerusalem in which two people had been killed, and for the abduction and murder of an Israeli soldier.

The Tel Aviv bus bombing occured following the historic initialling of a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, and at a time when serious efforts were being made to advance negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the letter noted. Hamas had repeatedly declared its

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commitment to opposing the peace process by violent means, and to carrying out acts of terrorism against Israel and Israelis.

Israel called on the parties in the Middle East which supported the peace process, as well as the rest of the international community, to strongly condemn Wednesday's attack, and to join in confronting the terrorist threat.

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The President of the International Tribunal on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia has expressed the hope that the Prosecutor may start issuing indictments for review by judges within the next few months. However, in the first annual report of the Tribunal, he stressed that many problems would have to be overcome before trials began. That report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and the Security Council in a note released today.

The report set out the many problems confronting the International Tribunal: a formal budget had yet to be approved, the Office of the Prosecutor had not been fully staffed or equipped, and the courtroom had not been finished. It pointed out that the Nürnberg International Military Tribunal had become fully operational less than eight months after its creation. In order to accomplish its mission, the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia would need the continued cooperation of States and the support of the Assembly and Council.

Nevertheless, the report continued, the establishment of the Tribunal was a momentous advance for the international community. The United Nations had accumulated an impressive body of international standards for the conduct of States and individuals, and now had an institution to transform them from abstract tenets into inescapable commands. All the individuals found guilty of rape, torture and massacre would be severely punished for their unacceptable disregard of the humanity of other human beings. With effective and dispassionate work, the Tribunal could open a new path to the realization of international justice and world peace.

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The Russian Federation yesterday told the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) that it intended to de-emphasize the role of nuclear weapons for security and move steadily towards their complete elimination. The Russian representative said the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) must be viewed realistically. Much had already been done to implement the Treaty and much more would be done if the stability provided by it were maintained and strengthened.

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Iraq, in "rejecting the politics of force and double standards", expressed concern regarding the nuclear capabilities of Israel, which had not acceded to the NPT. Under such circumstances, it would be illogical to expect the countries of the region to accept an indefinite extension of the NPT.

Several speakers expressed disappointment at the failure of the Disarmament Commission to reach a consensus on the role of science and technology in the context of international security. The Philippines said one way for developing countries to make economic progress was to ensure continuing access to new technologies for industrialization and sustained development. The matter became more urgent in a world in which technology changed at a rapid pace and government policies could impede innovation, access and commercialization.

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The Secretary-General has decided to extend the term of his representative in Cambodia, Benny Widyono, for another six months. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 10 October, he said he was taking that action in response to a request by the Cambodian Government. The Secretary-General also extended the term of the three military advisers assisting Mr. Widyono in carrying out his mandate in accordance with the spirit and principles of the Paris Agreements.

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The annual Inter-Agency Information Fair organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) will begin on United Nations Day, 24 October. It will be opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, in the General Assembly Public Lobby. The Secretary-General's United Nations Day message will be delivered on that occasion.

The six-day Fair aims to acquaint the public with the scope of activities undertaken by the United Nations system. The 32 programmes, agencies and offices participating will provide information on their work and have representatives on hand to meet with visitors.

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